

**Schulman & Kaufman, LLC**

Attorneys at Law  
One Charles Center  
100 N. Charles Street, Suite 600  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

---

Howard J. Schulman  
Joseph S. Kaufman

Tel. (410) 576-0400  
Fax: (410) 576-0544

October 24, 2006

**VIA ECF**

The Honorable Marvin J. Garbis  
United States District Court  
for the District of Maryland  
101 W. Lombard Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

RE: Cephus M. Murrell, et al. v.  
Mayor & City Council of Baltimore, et al.  
Civil Action No.: MJG-01-CV-3560

Dear Judge Garbis:

Please consider this a request to reopen this case.

Plaintiffs alleged both state and federal claims to the effect that the Defendants tore down their working warehouse and three dwelling houses that Plaintiffs were in the process of renovating. Defendants removed the case to this Court.

On May 8, 2002, this Court stayed and administratively closed this case pending the decision of the Court of Appeals of Maryland in related matters. Thereafter, the Court continued the stay pending the decision of the Court of Appeals of Maryland and subsequent administrative proceedings, which necessarily involved further circuit court proceedings. On July 30, 2003, the Court of Appeals of Maryland issued an opinion in favor of Mr. Murrell, reversing both the Court of Special Appeals and Circuit Court decisions in the matter. The Court of Appeals, in its decision, concluded that Mr. Murrell's properties were razed without benefit of the procedures mandated by the Baltimore City Code. *Murrell v. Mayor & City Council of Baltimore*, 376 Md. 170, 199 (2003). On November 17, 2004, the Circuit Court for Baltimore City reversed a June 17, 2004 decision of Department of Housing and Community Development of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. By a June 30, 2006 administrative opinion and order, a hearing officer of the Department of Housing and Community Development found in favor of Mr. Murrell and directed the Department to remove the liens placed upon Mr. Murrell's properties. The City did not take an appeal, thus finally concluding the administrative proceedings related to this matter.

The Honorable Marvin J. Garbis

Page 2 of 2

Despite ongoing settlement discussions and mediation with retired Circuit Court Judge Hilary D. Caplan, the parties were unable to reach a settlement, based on differing views as to damages.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Howard J. Schulman

HJS/jra

cc: Mr. Cephus Murrell